

## **STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - GRANT AGREEMENT**

### **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Subregion:** EAST **County:** MONO  
**Applicant:** U.S. FOREST SERVICE, MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT  
**Project Title:** MILL CITY FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT  
**Application Number:** SNC 070358

### **PROJECT SCOPE**

The Mammoth Ranger District will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and protect the community, water quality, and recreation values by improving fire resiliency through vegetation treatments on 55 acres of public land within and adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. This project will protect the watershed and municipal water and wastewater systems, wildlife habitat, residences, a scientific preserve owned by the University of California, Santa Barbara, and recreation infrastructure from the threat of wildfire. The area to be treated is rated as a high fire risk area in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Specifically, the project actions will include:

- Implementing fuels reduction treatments including hand thinning and brush mastication;
- Removing brush and slash by chipping, hauling materials off-site using hand crews and helicopters, and burning a minimal amount of slash piles.

In-kind and financial support of \$130,000 has been provided by the Inyo National Forest.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of \$99,999.

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Mono County Administrative Officer
- Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
- Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Develop and award contracts for fuel treatments	July 2008
Take pre and post treatment photos to include in final report	July 2008 & October 2009
Implement fuel treatments on U.S. Forest Service land	August -October 2008 August – October 2009
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	January 2009
Complete and submit 12 month progress report to SNC	July 2009
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>December 2009</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Fuels reduction crew and expenses –(\$3,000 – 5,000/ acre)	\$99,999
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,999</b>

## 2. Project Summary

This project was originally part of a competitive grant application submitted by the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District. This project will perform significant and substantial fuels reduction treatments within National Forest lands adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes, CA and will enhance the fuels treatments that are being planned through a cooperative effort with the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD). The project is located within the Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI) defense zone, and is strategically located within an area that is high priority for treatment due to the dense vegetative conditions, terrain, prevailing wind patterns, and the proximity to a popular recreation area. Forests in this area were historically subject to frequent, low intensity fires that resulted in open fire-resistant stands of trees. The lack of fire has resulted in a change in species composition, structure, and density, and has allowed dense vegetation and surface fuels to accumulate. The dense forest conditions within the project area make the area prone to the risk of a stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) community hazard rating for this area is Extreme. This action is intended to decrease wildfire spread and intensity to protect the community and increase safety of residents and firefighters, as well as to enhance forest health and protect watershed resources, including water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic quality, and heritage resources, each of which are important components to maintaining and enhancing recreational opportunities in this popular year-round recreation area.

The fuels reduction work on National Forest lands would include:

- Perform fuels reduction treatments on approximately 55 acres of National Forest lands adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes, including a combination of understory thinning, or mastication of trees (standing live and dead trees) and brush, and slash disposal through chipping, hauling the material off-site, or pile burning. The work would be completed by hand or mechanized equipment (masticator, helicopter, etc.).

The total project cost, including planning and implementation is approximately **\$230,000**. The grant request is for **\$99,999**, which would include funding for implementation of the fuels reduction treatments on the National Forest lands.

## 3. Authorization to Apply or Resolution

N/A